

1) Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life

Week 4 of 7, John Kincaid, Summer, 2013

2) Revelation 1:4-6 ESV

3) From everlasting to everlasting - Psa.90:2, 103:17

- God's plan of salvation began before creation
- It extends beyond the end of time. 2 Pet.3:10-13
- God chose us before creation, and predestined us to adoption as His children. Eph.1:4-5, 10, 14
- God was at work in our lives, calling us, drawing us to Himself, long before our moment of salvation
- Even before man was created, and before sin, the Lamb was provided. 1 Pet.1:20; Rev.13:8

4) To Save What Was Lost – Luke 19:10

- Why did God send His Son? Because all have sinned.
- Yet God loves all people; He wants them to be saved
- Christ is the only way God could offer salvation to the lost people He loved. 1 Tim.2:5-6
- Only Messiah's death could atone for sin

5) God's Own Sacrifice

- Matt.20:28 explains why Christ came into the world
- The 1st clue that His death would pay our ransom
- He had told His men 3 times that He would die soon
- But He had not yet said the reason for His death
- The Greek word for ransom means His death is a payment to redeem people, to set them free
- The Lamb of God was God's own sacrifice.

God brought His only Son to the altar

6) Jesus Paid it All; All to Him I Owe

- Jesus wasn't just a prophet talking about Messiah
- Jesus was the Messiah, the long-awaited One
- When He died, the temple veil was torn. Matt.27:51
- No more sacrifices for sin would ever be needed
- He was the perfect Lamb without blemish (sinless)
- His resurrection proved that God was satisfied
- Christ paid our debt in full at Calvary

7) It is finished - John 19:30 • The Romans wrote a bill

- of indebtedness for each prisoner, a certificate of debt.
- The bill remained posted beside the debtor's cell until the debt was paid. Col.2:13-14 NASB
- To cancel a debt after it had been satisfied, they wrote across the bill: tetelestai (paid in full)
- This was Christ's last word on the cross: It is finished
- The list of all your sins was nailed to the cross

8) He remembers your sins no more – Isa.43:25

- Christ died to carry away our sins; they are gone.
- No written accusation stands against us
- God no longer remembers our sins against us; God threw all our sins into the depths of the sea.

9) Credited to him as righteousness – Rom.4:3

- When Jesus died, my sins were put on His account. He took my punishment. When I trusted Him as my Savior, His righteousness was added to my account.
- His righteousness is imputed (credited) to believers
- Like Philemon 17-18, Jesus asked His Father, "I paid his debt on the cross. Receive him as you would receive me. Let him come into the family circle."

10) What can wash away my sin?

- Old Testament animal sacrifices were inadequate
- They were not sufficient to permanently remove sins
- They temporarily covered the sins of 1 nation, Israel
- But John the Baptist proclaimed the Lamb of God
- He takes away the sins of the world, once for all
- The old hymn asks, "What can wash away my sin?"
- Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

11) Behold the Lamb of God - John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

12) Handel's Poet

- Charles Jennens, who organized the Scripture texts for Messiah, was a staunch Protestant
- He intended the Messiah text to challenge the deists, who denied Christ's divinity
- He admired Handel's music 15 years before Messiah
- He gave Handel the text for the oratorio 'Saul' (1739) and for Handel's masterpiece 'Belshazzar' (1744)

13) Handel's Sacred Oratorios (a partial list 1732-49)

- Esther, Israel in Egypt, Saul, Messiah, Joseph, Samson
- Belshazzar, Judas Maccabaeus, Joshua, Solomon

14) Messiah's 3 Parts

- Jennens organized the sacred opera into 3 acts telling Christ's birth, death / resurrection, and return
- Today we call them Christmas, Easter, 2nd Coming
- Part 1 (Christmas): 1. The prophecy of salvation
- 2. The prophecy of the coming of Messiah
- 3. The prophecy of the Virgin Birth
- 4. The appearance of angels to the shepherds
- 5. Christ's redemptive miracles on earth

15) Messiah's 3 Parts

- Part 2 (Easter): 1. His sacrifice, His agony at Calvary
- 2. His death, resurrection & ascension
- 3. The beginning of evangelism
- 4. The world rejects the Gospel; 5. God's triumph

16) Messiah's 3 Parts

- Part 3 (2nd Coming): 1. Promise of bodily resurrection
- 2. The day of judgment; 3. The victory over death & sin
- 4. The glorification of the Messiah

17) The Subject excels all others - July 10, 1741

- Charles Jennens wrote in a letter, "I hope I shall persuade Handel to set another Scripture collection I have made for him... I hope he will lay out his whole genius & skill upon it, that the composition may excel all his former compositions, because the Subject excels every other subject. The Subject is Messiah."

18) Messiah Was Written in 24 Days!

- 22 August : Handel begins to compose Messiah
- 28 August : Completes draft of Messiah Part 1
- 6 September : Completes draft of Messiah Part 2
- 12 September : Completes draft of Messiah Part 3
- 14 September : Completes orchestration of Messiah
- Handel's Messiah was composed in 24 days!

19) The God of Peace – Heb.13:20

- The God of peace will give you the peace of God.
- Christ alone is the source of peace. 2 Thes.3:16

- In this world you will have trouble. John 14:27, 16:33
- But take heart! Christ has overcome the world.
- The One who is in you (the Holy Spirit) is greater than the one who is in the world (Satan). 1 John 4:4

20) Because He Cares for You - 1 Peter 5:7

- There is nothing to be gained by worrying. Matt.6:27
 - Instead of fear, Christ wants us to trust Him
 - Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you
 - He sympathizes with our weaknesses;
- He has been tempted just as we are. Heb.4:15
- God wants us to be thankful not worried. Mt.10:29-31
 - Don't be anxious about anything. Pray. Phil.4:6-7, 9b

21) Hardship is inevitable for believers

- We are down behind enemy lines. John 17:15-18
- We are strangers in the world.
- We are soldiers in a spiritual war, in a foreign land.
- Satan is seeking us like a prowling lion.
- But God protects believers.

22) The world hates the light Jesus told His followers:

- If the world hates you, remember: it hated me first
- You don't belong to the world. God chose you out of the world; that's why they hate you
- If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also
- The world hates the light that we shine on their sin

23) We will be with the Lord forever

- In hard times, we don't feel like rejoicing. Ro.12:12
- But Christians can see into the future
- We will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thes.4:17-18
- Therefore encourage each other with these words
- Our suffering is only for a little while. We know what our circumstances will be for eternity. 2 Cor.4:17

24) He was despised - Isaiah 53:3, 50:6

He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

25) Isa.53:4,5 - Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

26) God will provide the Lamb - Gen.22:8

- Powerful scene: Abraham taking Isaac to Mt. Moriah
- Abraham shows what God the Father did for us. Isaac shows what Christ did for us. Gen.22:2, 5-10
- In both cases the father placed the wood on his son, bound his son and laid him on the altar. Gen.22:6, 9
- In both cases, God (not man) provided the sacrifice
- Abraham said "we will come back" since he believed God would resurrect Isaac, to fulfill God's promises.

27) The Threshing Floor

- The altar on Mt. Moriah became a threshing floor, 1000 years after Isaac, in the time of King David
- The threshing floor is where wheat is separated from chaff (dividing what is saved from what is not).
- Dan.2:35 Christ's Return will do this to God's enemies
- Mt. Moriah is the land David bought from Araunah,

to be the temple site. God told David to come to the threshing floor and build an altar to the Lord

28) Our kinsman redeemer - Ruth 3:2-6

- Ruth (David's great-grandmother) went to meet her kinsman redeemer at the threshing floor
- Mt. Moriah is the location of Solomon's temple, the Jerusalem Temple Mount. 2 Chron.3:1
- This place is where: - Christ died for our sins
- He will return to overthrow the antichrist, 2 Th.2:4, 8
- He will reign on David's throne, Isa.9:7; 2 Sa.7:12-16

29) Who killed Jesus?

- Some people blame the Jews or the Romans
- We all killed Jesus. Rom.3:23-26; 1 Cor.15:21-22
- Yet it was God's plan before creation to sacrifice His only Son to pay for our sins. So God killed Jesus.
- God's Lamb was slain from the creation of the world
- God presented him as a sacrifice. Rom.3:25
- God loved the world so much that He gave. Jn.3:16
- God was always in control. Matt.26:53; John 19:11

30) In bringing many sons to glory - Heb.2:5-18

- Isa.53:6 the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all
- Isa.53:10 it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer. Why? Isa.53:8 for the transgression of my people he was stricken. (He died for our sins)
- Isa.53:11 After the suffering, he will be satisfied
- Ultimately, He died so that many would be saved
- The redeemed will love and glorify God eternally

31) The Last Supper - Leonardo da Vinci

- **32) Peter's Denial** • At the Last Supper, Jesus said that Peter would disown Him 3 times, that very night
- Peter couldn't imagine how he could deny Jesus
- Christ's prediction devastated and silenced Peter
- He didn't speak again until John 18:17, his 1st denial
- But we love Peter because we know it was a moment of weakness, not deliberate (as with Judas Iscariot)

33) A Human Example

- 7 weeks later, this same Peter preached at Pentecost
- Peter would one day follow Christ to the cross
- Peter meant well. He was just impulsive
- He had to learn about his weakness the hard way
- Peter's example is very human, therefore very helpful.
- All of the disciples would fail. Only their love for Christ brought them back together.

34) The Perfect Example - 1 Pet.2:21

- We are to imitate Christ's character and conduct
- Why? Because He suffered for us
- 1 Pet.2:21 uses a special Greek word for "example"
- Yet it was a word familiar to every 1st grader
- It was the top line in a handwriting book
- Strive to carefully follow His perfect example
- He knows we will slip, but He has an eraser

35) And with His stripes we are healed - Isaiah 53:5b

36) Isa.53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.